

2005-06 Idaho 9th Grade Direct Writing Assessment

PS2

901

STUDENTS DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

ROUND 1

ROUND 2

FINAL

T: ___ R: ___ T: ___ R: ___

It's not an uncommon thing for a teacher to put you in a group. Teachers think it's a great way for them to lighten the load of a project or assignment for us, while building our social skills at the same time. In some ways working in groups is a great way to get to know people, build all important social skills and to collaborate our creativity on a project. It doesn't always work out that way though. There are also negative effects of being in a group. Being in a group can cause arguments, disorganization, and unfairness. I have experienced being in a group first hand.

There are many positive things about working in a group. You can channel creative ideas to make a beautiful, one of a kind project. Many kids don't work well by themselves and being in a group helps them think of ideas as they hear the other students' ideas. Some students look a project over, ~~and~~ see all the work they need to get done and it scares them. So they give up. Although, as soon as they've put into a group they see that with their fellow peers assisting them, "It's not that bad... if we work together." For some kids everyday communication and interaction with people is difficult. It's not their fault, but something can be done to help this difficulty they are having and it comes in three words, practice makes perfect. The ~~way~~ only way a student can become better at interacting with others is interacting with others. In a group you need to communicate and speak up. Doing that helps build social skills, therefore being in a group builds social skills.

Group work also has negative effects. At first glance being in a group looks ideal, but if you really look at it, it's not always going to go that smoothly. Often groups are matched together with the wrong people. If you look at this in terms of animals let's say, the group has 3 dogs and 1 cat and we all know how much dogs hate cats. This would cause constant fighting between the dogs and the cat. The end results would be the failure and incompleteness of the project. Another situation that being in a group puts you in is disorganization and confusion.

PS2901

When in a group you share the work. Everyone splits up the work and decides what they are going to do, but wait. ... doesn't have a part, oh, and you know... doesn't want to color the poster. So, then you're left with trying to sort it out, make it fair for everyone and make sure everything is being completed. Having all that confusion happen can also lead to the failure of the project. Often this disorganization can cause the overall take over of the project by one person whether they would like to or not. This can happen in two ways. The first being that one person just willingly takes over the project, even when the others want to have input. The second being that the rest of the group members are lazy and don't want to do anything, so the "Smart kid" of the group is forced into taking over the project by peer pressure and the sheer urge to succeed.

In my opinion working in groups can be great for some people and bad for others. In my personal experience groups have not gone well for me and I dislike them, because I have been labeled "The smart kid" and I am usually left with the scenario where I end up doing all of the work. I think the negative effects outweigh the positive and being put into groups is a bad decision. Although, I am a debater, in debate you work in groups and I like this. I believe it is because debaters are some of the smartest people you will ever meet, I don't want to sound like an elitist, but it is probably true. I like working with them because they are intelligent. So, I think it all depends upon the crowd and who you're paired with.

So, in the end being puts in groups is something commonly done by teachers. There are positive and negative of grouping. Often the negative outweigh the positive, but all rests upon who you're paired with. So, in my opinion groups are conditional and it really depends on the people around you.

STUDENTS DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

PS2**908****ROUND 1****ROUND 2****FINAL**

T: _____ R: _____

T: _____ R: _____



Even though working with others may be difficult at times, it has many positive effects. This past summer, two of my friends and I were asked to spend two hours teaching young children with Down syndrome how to play basketball. Alone, it would have been a difficult task, but with three people we could get the job done. Some positives of about working in a group are more ideas being offered, the goal being reached faster, and learning to cooperate with others. However, if people want to do everything their way, don't do their share, or argue too much then it won't work.

The more people you have, the more ideas you will have to work with. This is a good thing, but sometimes people want it all their way. When we were all working together, we had many ideas of drills to have the kids do. Since we were all open to each others' suggestions, we were able to make the best ideas work.

If I had been teaching the children by myself, it would have taken much longer. But with everyone pitching in,

We could be productive. Sometimes people don't do their share though, or they try to do it all alone. Either way, the effect will be negative. Our group worked well together, so we were done after just two hours.

The most positive effect about working in our group was learning to cooperate. The overall experience of working with others was very important. Even when people are arguing, & they have to figure things out and work together again. My friend and I were almost constantly arguing, but when the other friend helped us get back on track, we could be productive again. That's what working in a group teaches you.

This experience not only taught children with Down syndrome to play basketball, but my friends and I learned something as well. It taught us how to come together and cooperate to be productive. It also showed us the down sides of working in a group, but that helped us too. When we all stayed focused and worked together, we accomplished our goal.

2005-06 Idaho 9th Grade Direct Writing Assessment

STUDENTS DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

PS2**958****ROUND 1****ROUND 2****FINAL**

T: ___ R: ___ T: ___ R: ___

I've worked with a lot of people. I've worked with happy people, sad people, angry people and even depressed people so I have had my share of certain types of people. I've done a lot of projects with other people. I've had to research things, look up words, go through books, ask adults for help and a bunch of other things. People who don't get their stuff done are just lazy. Like one time I had worked with this one kid he told me the day the project was due, he dropped it in his pool and it was winter time, of this one guy I was working with said that he had left it in his room and his dog chewed it up then he threw it away without knowing what it was. I've had to deal with a lot of excuses in groups and there have been some pretty lame ones. I also have had to do other people's work a lot. OK so people also have had to do my work. So I'll just admit that I've had to do work and work has been done for me a lot. why they didn't do their work Oh this is a funny thing most of the time. So I'll admit again I've come

up with a lot of lame excuses of why I didn't do my work, couldn't find my homework, I went to dinner, went to a relatives house, my computer wasn't working, I don't have the internet right now. I could give a lot more samples it would just take up a lot of the page. ok so will they do their work. ok now this is a bad thing you have to trust your partner to finish the work or you don't get a grade. I've had it done to me a couple of times and I've done it to other people a bunch of times so its like a win win situation you trust them they trust you. ok so I've had a lot of bad experiences with partners and other things, but I do admit its been very fun and its been very weird sometimes. But in the end I love working with partners because I get to learn stuff about my partners like their personality, how they feel about working in partners. But in the end its just so awesome to work in groups.

2005-06 Idaho 9th Grade Direct Writing Assessment

PS2

968

STUDENTS DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

ROUND 1

ROUND 2

FINAL

T: ____ R: ____ T: ____ R: ____

My class was given the task of cleaning the windows and the trucks at the fire station. My class had no motive and didn't want to do it. we didn't have a leader and that's only made it worse.